

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management

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News and Information
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Numerous Public Comments Received on Land Management Plan

CENTRAL OREGON—Within a 90-day comment period, over 1,300 public comments were received in response to the Draft Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The draft, released in October of 2003, is a large-scale plan that will shape the future management of Prineville Bureau of Land Management public lands that stretch north to Lake Billy Chinook, south to La Pine, west to Sisters and east to Prineville Reservoir.

The draft plan addressed a wide variety of topics, including recreation, wildlife, range, transportation access, natural and cultural resources, wildland/urban interface issues and socio-economic concerns. Public meetings held in Redmond, Prineville, Bend and LaPine provided the general public, private organizations, government agencies and tribal representatives with opportunities to hear presentations, view displays and talk with planning team members prior to submitting comments.

While the comments are still being analyzed, key concerns include the protection of the Badlands Wilderness Study Area, providing motorized recreation opportunities, providing areas that emphasize non-motorized recreation, protecting wildlife, disposal and acquisition of BLM lands and the management of BLM lands that are adjacent to private property. A comment analysis team is currently reviewing the public input to begin the process of identifying changes that may need to be addressed in the draft documents and maps. The Upper Deschutes Issue Team, a working group chartered by the Deschutes Provincial Advisory Committee, will work closely with the BLM over the next several months to address proposed changes.

“We are pleased with the level of interest expressed by the public and we are committed to keeping the local communities involved with the important decisions we’ll be making,” said Project Manager Mollie Chaudet.

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The BLM has scheduled an Issue Team meeting on Tuesday, March 16, from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Eagle Crest Resort in the Conference Center. Although the meeting is specifically designed for Issue Team members, the general public is welcome and a brief comment (verbal or written) period will be offered.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for release in the fall of 2004. For more information on the Upper Deschutes Resource Management Plan, visit our website at http://www.or.blm.gov/Prineville/Deschutes_RMP/Home.htm or contact Mike Williams, Bureau of Land Management, Prineville District Office, 3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, Oregon 97754, or call (541) 416-6700.

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